

**What kinds of individual representation
does CILS provide?**

CILS is able to provide representation to qualifying individuals in cases that involve issues unique to Native Americans. These may include:

- Use of and access to individual trust allotments
- Probates of Indian land and small estates
- Parent-student rights committees
- Indian students' rights
- Health care access
- Civil rights related to race or Indian religion
- Applicable tax exemptions
- Fee-to-trust land transfers
- Tribal representation on Indian child welfare
- Guardianships and Indian custodianships
- Eligibility of Indians for special benefits programs
- Unsealing Indian birth records

For example:

Child Welfare

CILS has succeeded in preventing the break-up of many Indian families by helping Indian parents challenge custody and placement orders that were obtained in violation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). With CILS representation, the wronged parents were able to invalidate the illegal proceedings and get their children back.

Education

In this zero tolerance era, schools often expel students for the most minor of offenses, denying children needed educational opportunities. CILS attorneys have succeeded in working with school districts to allow numerous Indian students facing expulsion to return to school and continue their education.

Land and Estate Planning

CILS has helped numerous Indian individuals navigate the complex, often frustrating process of placing land into trust status. Through Will clinics, CILS has drafted Wills and aided in estate planning for Indian individuals holding title to Indian personal property and land.

CILS OFFICE LOCATIONS

Bishop

787 North Main Street, Suite D, Bishop, CA 93514
(760)873-3581 * (800)736-3582 * Fax (760)873-8788

Escondido

609 South Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, CA 92025
(760)746-8941 * (800)743-8941 * Fax (760)746-1815

Eureka

324 F Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707)443-8397 * (800)347-2402 * Fax (707)443-8913

Oakland

510 16th Street, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
(510)835-0284 * (800)829-0284 * Fax (510)835-8045

Santa Rosa

37 Old Courthouse Sq., Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707)573-8016 * (866)251-8016 * Fax (707)573-3925

Washington, D.C.

1101- 14th Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20005
(202)589-1860 * (866)204-1831 * Fax (202)589-1890

For assistance, please contact your local CILS office. Refer to the box below to determine which office serves the county where you live.

COUNTIES SERVED

Bishop Office Alpine, Inyo, Kern, Mono, Tuolumne

Escondido Office Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura

Eureka Office Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity

Oakland Office Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Lake, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, Yuba

Santa Rosa Office Same counties as Oakland Office

CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES



BISHOP
ESCONDIDO
EUREKA
OAKLAND
SANTA ROSA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

What is CILS?

Indian Rights' Advocates for 35 Years

California Indian Legal Services (CILS) is an Indian-controlled, not-for-profit law firm devoted exclusively to the cause of Native American rights.

Founded by California Indian leaders and public interest attorneys in the mid-1960's, CILS boasts many important achievements over the intervening decades, including significant Supreme Court and legislative victories, the creation of the Native American Rights Fund in 1970, and the successful resolution of problems faced by thousands of Indian individuals and families. Governed by a tribally selected board of directors, CILS today remains a valuable advocate and resource for California Indian communities.

Free Legal Services

With grants from the Legal Services Corporation, the California State Bar Lawyers Trust Fund, and the State of California, CILS provides free legal services to low-income individuals and tribes. CILS also receives funding from tribal contributions, private foundations, individual donations, and tribal, federal, state, and local grants.

Over the last 35 years, CILS has helped more than 50,000 impoverished Indian families, children, and individuals.

Free legal assistance may be available for a wide variety of issues involving Federal Indian Law, including child welfare, Indian land issues, students' rights, discrimination, housing, public benefits eligibility, probate, and more.

Serving California Indian Communities

In addition to providing free services to qualifying individuals and organizations, CILS provides low-cost legal services to California Indian tribes that do not qualify for free services. CILS currently represents more than sixty California Indian tribes on a wide range of legal issues. We maintain five offices throughout California, as well as an office in Washington, D.C., and employ more than 20 advocates with decades of experience representing tribes and individuals.

Who is eligible for CILS' free legal services?

Because CILS receives federal funds from the Legal Services Corporation, for the most part our free legal services are only available to individuals whose monthly household incomes are below 125% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. For example, in 2004, for one person this amount is \$970 a month. For two people it is \$1,301, and for a family of four it is \$1,964. Depending on your situation, there are some limited circumstances in which we may be able to represent you if your income is above these numbers.

Even if we are unable to provide you with free representation, we may still be able to help you. Our advocates can often provide you with information about steps you can take to resolve your problem, or give you a referral to another agency or organization that can help. We encourage all community members to call with their questions!

What kinds of assistance does CILS give when we are not able to provide representation?

- ◆ CILS may be able to provide you with detailed information about how to address your problem without the assistance of legal counsel. In some cases, we have comprehensive informational packets that will walk you through what you need to do step-by-step.
- ◆ CILS may be able to provide you with pamphlets or brochures that will help you understand your rights and how to protect them.
- ◆ CILS can refer you to legal or social services organizations in your area that specialize in the issues with which you need assistance. We maintain up-to-date listings of Indian and non-Indian social service providers, legal aid organizations and other sources of legal assistance, as well as state and federal government agencies.

What kinds of cases is CILS not able to accept?

Because of federal regulations, and the limited amount of funding available for free legal services, CILS is able to provide free representation only in those cases involving the special legal rights of Native Americans (see next page for examples of cases CILS may be able to accept).

Some examples of the kinds of cases CILS does not accept:

CILS cannot provide legal representation in criminal matters.

CILS cannot provide legal representation in those cases where the main reason for bringing legal action is to secure monetary damages for accident or injury.

If we believe that the law does not provide any remedy for the harm you believe you have suffered, then we cannot provide legal representation.

Generally, CILS does not provide legal representation in those cases involving a dispute between Indians or between Indian organizations.

What do I do if I believe my request for help has been unfairly denied?

Please contact in writing the office where you initially sought assistance and let them know what your concern is. If your request for assistance is denied, the Directing Attorney of the office will communicate that to you in writing. If you still feel that you were denied services unfairly, you may contact CILS' Executive Director, Michael S. Pfeffer. Mr. Pfeffer can be reached in CILS' Executive Office, 510 16th Street, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA, 94612. If you would like more detailed information about our grievance procedures, you may contact CILS' Executive Office.

How can I find out more about CILS?

For more information about CILS, please visit our website at www.calindian.org, or call your local CILS office (see next page for contact information).